

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 016147

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN NEGOTIATIONS: IAN SMITH'S
SEPTEMBER 24 SPEECH.

FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT FROM SECRETARY VANCE

1. IN A RADIO AND TELEVISION ADDRESS TO THE
RHODESIAN NATION ON JANUARY 24, IAN SMITH REJECTED
BRITISH PROPOSALS AS A BASIS FOR CONTINUED NEGOTIA-
TIONS FOR A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT. INSTEAD HE IS
STANDING BY THE ORIGINAL FIVE POINTS. SMITH HAS
INVITED RHODESIAN WHITES AND AFRICANS TO JOIN AND
PRODUCE A SETTLEMENT AMONG THEMSELVES. HE EXCLUDED
THE PARTICIPATION OF NATIONALISTS INVOLVED IN
,TERRORISM,' AND THEREBY RULED OUT A SETTLEMENT
BASED ON AN AGREEMENT WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT

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WHICH ENJOYS SUPPORT OF THE FRONT LINE AFRICAN
NATIONS. SMITH ALSO HELD OUT A VAGUE PROMISE
FOR REFORM OF RHODESIAN LEGISLATION WHICH DISCRIMI-
NATES AGAINST BLACKS.

2. SHORTLY AFTER HIS MEETING WITH SMITH, BUT BEFORE SMITH'S SPEECH, IVOR RICHARD, THE BRITISH GENEVA CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN, SAID HE COULD SEE NO BASIS FOR RECONVENING GENEVA. WE HAVE URGED THE BRITISH TO MOVE PRUDENTLY LEST THE DOOR TO NEGOTIATIONS BE CLOSED. PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN PICKED UP OUR POINT AND SAID ON JANUARY 24 THAT SMITH'S SPEECH AND THE NEXT STEPS IN NEGOTIATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED IN CABINET. WE UNDERSTAND RICHARD HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO STAY IN AFRICA AND CONTINUE HIS CONSULTATIONS WITH THE NATIONALISTS THROUGH JANUARY 28.

3. SMITH'S STATEMENT SEVERELY COMPLICATES THE NEGOTIATIONS AND CALLS INTO SERIOUS QUESTION WHAT, IF ANYTHING, CAN BE SALVAGED FROM THE LATEST BRITISH PROPOSALS. HIS CALL FOR AN INTERNAL SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM IS UNREALISTIC AND WILL DRAW FIRE FROM ALL OF AFRICA.

4. WE PLAN TO TAKE THE PUBLIC POSITION THAT THE BRITISH PROPOSALS OFFER A BASIS FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATION AND WILL BE URGING ALL PARTIES TO CONTINUE TALKING. WE INTEND TO DISCUSS SMITH'S STATEMENT WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS. IN ORDER TO DECIDE NEXT STEPS WE WILL WISH TO BEGIN TALKS WITH THE BRITISH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH THE BRITISH SHORTLY ON HOW BEST TO CONSULT AND COORDINATE OUR JOINT EFFORTS. I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD REASSURE THE BRITISH THAT WE INTEND TO WORK CLOSELY WITH
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THEM ON THIS MATTER.

5. WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

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